

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Sevenoaks u3a joins other u3as and The Third Age Trust in paying our respects to Queen Elizabeth II. Many of us will have treasured personal memories. I recall when aged 11 a celebration with games, races, and a splendid Coronation Tea, in Pembrokeshire on 2nd June 1953. More recently I photographed the Sevenoaks u3a "Singing for Fun" group, which performed a specially written song at the Beacon Lighting Ceremony on The Vine, to mark the first day of the Jubilee Celebrations. Little did we know then, that she would be leaving us so soon.



Queen Elizabeth II
1926 – 2022

God Bless Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and may she rest in peace.

Ken Brown
Chairman

OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday, 26th October 2022
at 2 p.m. at the
Bat and Ball Centre, Sevenoaks
(also available via Zoom)

Our speaker this month is Caroline Piper, a London Blue Badge Tourist Guide and a Cambridge University history graduate.



She will be giving a presentation entitled **"The British Love Affair with Tea"** and will explore the history of tea drinking, starting in China, its growth in popularity amongst Europeans and finally in Britain during the Restoration. Do you know your Assam from your Darjeeling? This talk explains how tea is made, the 6 main types of tea and the tasting pointers for choosing between them.

This meeting will also be open to the public, one of a programme of events which older people may attend as part of a District Council "Silver Sunday" initiative.

We look forward to welcoming you back to the Bat & Ball Centre for the first of this season's talks, with tea and biscuits being served afterwards. For those of you who are unable to join us at the Hall and prefer to watch from the comfort of your own home the talk will also be relayed via Zoom.

I do hope you will join us. The Zoom link will be sent out to all members by email a couple of days before the event.

Barbara Coleyshaw meetings@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

The deadline for inclusion of items in the November Newsletter is October 15th.

SOHO WALK

There are a few spaces remaining for the **Walk Round Soho** on **Tuesday, October 11th**, the flyer for which was included in last month's newsletter.

If you are interested, please contact the organiser **Joyce Allen** via socialsec@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk or phone her on 01959 522915

A NEW ALLOTMENT GROUP

A plot near Shoreham has been offered to Sevenoaks u3a to host an allotment group. It includes a poly-tunnel, 9 raised beds, and a potting shed with electricity and a toilet. There would be no rental cost involved. The plot was previously used by a mental health charity who no longer wish to continue there. In particular we would need someone to be the Group Organiser. The owner would be very happy for that person and any others who have expressed an interest to "come over and have a chat about it and look around the plot".

If you are interested, please email Beryl Mansell at vicechair@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk.

BRIDGE FOR PLEASURE

Our new season will start in **October**, on the **12th** and **26th**. Hopefully our members are refreshed from their summer break and looking forward to playing again?

The Group plays at **Otford Village Memorial Hall** on the **2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings** of each month from October to the end of July, from **9.45 a.m.** until **12 noon**.

New members are always welcome. We are an "open" group so new players can just come along on the day. We play ACOL in a 'Chicago' format so you do not need a partner.

For more information, please ring **John and Sue Christy** on **01732 463911** or contact them by email at bridge@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk.

SCIENCE OPEN GROUP

Otford Village Memorial Hall – October 10th at 2pm.

'70th Anniversary of Operation Hurricane' by Gordon Pattison

October 2022 is the 70th Anniversary of Operation Hurricane, and the detonation of Britain's first Atomic Bomb. It was a massive investment by Britain, managed by Scientists and Engineers at Fort Halstead. Gordon Pattison joined the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment at Fort Halstead as a physicist in 1985 where he has spent most of his working career.

Bob Ruffles science@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

PSYCHOLOGY

We are an informal discussion group which explores human behaviour. Members are asked to bring to each meeting an idea that is likely to promote discussion and the sharing of different views.

The ideas often stem from current affairs or articles in the press or other media.

For more information please contact :

Indeg Robinson psychology@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

ROCK TILL WE DROP !



- Are you an ageing rocker?
- Do you like bands such as the Animals, the Beatles, Dire Straits, Arctic Monkeys, the Knack, etc.
- Do you own musical instruments you've never fully mastered?
- Have you always wanted to play in a band?
- Want to get together with kindred spirits to see what transpires?

I occasionally play the same bits of songs repeatedly and need the incentive to try to play a part of whole pieces properly; I believe that the discipline of playing with others would do that for me. It would be good to talk to interested parties to see how we might develop a small group to play together whilst developing our proficiency on the way.

If you are interested please contact **Keith Gofton** by email at rock@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk with your contact details.

MEMBERS' DETAILS

Have you changed

- your address,
- your telephone number,
- your mobile number
- or your email address

in the last few months ?

If you have changed any of the above, please let the Membership Secretary know so that our records can be kept up to date. This will enable us to ensure you receive your Newsletters, Handbooks and any other information from us. Please respond to :

membership@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

HANDBOOK CORRECTIONS

Unfortunately some errors crept into the latest edition of the handbook,

- **Page 1** - the phone number for the **Social Secretary**, Joyce Allen, should read **01959 522915**;
- **Page 4** - the title of the **Open Meeting** for **March 2023** should read "**Historic Greenwich**"
- **Page 8**—should say that the **European Film group** meets at **14.30** on the **2nd Tuesday** of the month.
- **Page 21**—**Wine Appreciation Group 3** has now closed.

NORDIC WALKING & AMBLING

Forthcoming walks by the Nordic Walking and Ambling groups will no longer be shown in the newsletter. Anyone wishing to walk with either of the groups should inform Nick White on one of the email addresses below. Members who already receive regular emails need take no action. Members who have registered with one or both of the groups will receive information about forthcoming walks by email.

- **Nordic Walking** normally starts at **10.30** on the **2nd Wednesday** and covers about 3 miles. nordicwalking@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk
- **Ambling** normally starts at **10.30** on the **3rd Wednesday** and covers about 4 miles. ambling@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk



PHOTOGRAPHY 2

We would welcome 2 or 3 people interested in cameras and photography to join our Group. During the summer we meet in Otford Methodist Church Hall. This year we are planning to share interesting photos of skies, a presentation on black and white photography, making camera filters and sharing the results, and having an informal competition. In spring and summer we arrange trips out, and this year will include going to a garden and visiting a village.

Celia Smith photo2@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

ITALIAN CONVERSATION

This year we are completing our 'tour' of Italy. We have been researching each of the regions in turn as regards economy, industry, architecture, history, art, famous people, cuisine etc which has given us much to report and talk about.

We are a lively group of members although of advancing years. We are now down to six and would greatly benefit from enlarging the group by a couple of new members who have an advanced level of Italian conversation.

Catherine Denton-Clark

italconv@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

SINGING FOR FUN

We are a welcoming, informal group with over 30 members, accompanied and guided by our expert pianist. We sing a wide range of songs, especially folk songs, songs from the shows and other popular 20th century songs. We meet between 2 & 4pm, usually on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, at the Otford Methodist Hall. Pre-Covid we used to give performances at various homes and charitable institutions and hope to be able to resume these in the near future.

At the moment we have one or two vacancies, so, if you think you would be interested in joining us (you don't need to have a great singing voice – enjoyment is the main objective!), then please contact me at the e-mail address below.

Laurence Hickey singing@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

DIGITAL IMAGE MANIPULATION

A new first year group starting in October on the **2nd Thursday** of each month from **10.00** until **12.30** at **Holmesdale Bowls Club**.

There will be 9 sessions and we will be using a computer program to look at various ways of altering your photographs.

For more information, contact **Janet Austin** at digimage1@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

EXPLORING WORLD FAITHS

We would welcome 2 or 3 people to join our small group which meets in the GO's house. We explore, discuss and try to understand some of the many World Faiths. This year we are planning presentations on Shamanism, the Bahai faith, Gnosticism, more on Hinduism and more on Spiritualism. We may invite an outside speaker to tell us about Quakerism, and arrange an outing to a Buddhist temple.

Celia Smith 01732 453049 worldfaiths@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

AVIATION

After disruption during the Covid lockdowns, we now have a full programme for the coming session. In addition to a talk by one of the members we keep up-to-date with discussion on current issues in aviation. Among the items scheduled for presentation are: Airbus, DH Comet, Lympne Airfield, Genesis of British Aerospace, Future of UK Air Transport. We are also planning a visit to the Duxford airfield/museum.

Currently we are a small group and would welcome one or two new members. We meet in the morning on the 4th Friday in the month.

Frank Matthews aviation@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk



CROCHET

This is a small friendly group of ladies who like to crochet. Everyone is helped individually by the group organiser and therefore learns at their own pace. We work on a new small project each month and in the past have made various items including slippers, cupcake pincushion, jewellery box, clutchbag, tea cosy, coasters and a variety of Christmas decorations. The group has also been involved in community projects such as "Crowns for the Vine", Poppies for Remembrance Day and blankets for dementia patients.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact :

Pauline Gofton at crochet@sevenoaksu3a.org.

ENGLISH CONCERTINA

The English Concertina Group has 6 members and we meet on Monday mornings, normally every two weeks. Our aim is to enjoy our sessions together playing a broad and extending range of multi-part music. We would be delighted if we could attract 1 or 2 new members. It would help if a prospective member was already able to read music and superb if they already have some experience playing the concertina. We would do all we can to help fill in any knowledge gaps.

Our aim is to extend our range and capabilities and above all have fun playing this lovely traditional instrument.

For more information, please contact :

Dave Robson at concertina@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk.

STOCKMARKET DISCUSSION

Our stock market group doesn't study things as such, but it discusses UK and global economic and political events at each meeting, together with their impact on the financial markets, as well as looking at the individual shares that each member has selected and discussing how they are doing in the market and what may have affected them either positively or negatively.

For further information, please contact :

Roger Fishwick

stockmarket@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

CHESS

The Chess group attracts people who have played at school, and enjoyed it although it proved difficult to fit in round work. We draw a playing partner from those who attend, and it usually lasts the whole session. There is no league table, or 'competition' and we see the meetings as a chance to refresh our memory about the rules and improve strategy by discussion.

Meetings : 3rd Monday, 16.30—18.00

Organiser : Magda Sweetland 01732 461901

chess@sevenoaksu3a.org.uk